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**Christine Joyce**

**From:** Dore' Hunter  
**Sent:** Friday, January 21, 2005 11:06 AM  
**To:** Manager Department; Board of Selectmen; Transportation Advisory Committee  
**Cc:** abuw@localnet.com  
**Subject:** Lowell LRTA service and representation

Don,

I attended the Acton-Boxborough United Way forum last night on transportation inside and around Acton for those who cannot drive, are disabled, or otherwise without their own vehicular transport. It was an excellent session chaired by Sandra Campbell. The focus was on existing and potential means, the need having been previously established. Various participants offered their knowledge in regard to existing resources in and around Acton and in other communities, and the standing request was for further dialog in that regard directed to the UW web site chat rooms ([www.abuw.org](http://www.abuw.org)) and volunteer efforts to improve the existing situation.

I came away with two immediate and related concerns, one that was mentioned during the session and another that was brought to me afterwards by Sam Lawton of TAC.

The first concern is that we were told that the LRTA Road Runner (as contrasted with the COA van which is fully utilized five days a week) service has been discontinued on Mondays and Fridays, and now only operates Tuesday-Thursday. This purportedly because of a lack of customer usage.

The second concern was that our long serving LRTA representative, Don Herskovitz, has been reportedly been unresponsive to TAC's attempts to contact him. As I recall Don moved out of Town and there seemed to be no one ready/willing to replace him so we just continued to ask him to serve.

Personally, before my father died, I looked into the Road Runner availability to take him from Robbins Brook to his various oncologist's appointments and chemotherapy sessions and found that its scheduling through an out of town contact person was awkward. By contrast the COA van seemed reasonably available and easy to schedule. As you know, I recently participated in a preliminary discussion with you and others in re the development of a potential FY06 "B" Budget which unfortunately encompassed potential reductions in the COA van service. We need, in my estimation, to do everything possible, within our available resources, to sustain van service in Town for those without transportation for medical and shopping purposes. As a first step to that end it seems that perhaps we need to obtain more proactive liaison with the Lowell LRTA through an Acton group or individual actively committed to inter-Acton transport. The second step would seem to be working to obtain better coordination between the LRTA and COA van services, such that they would complement each other, perhaps through a common dispatch routine

It would not be outside what I consider to be TAC's charter to have that committee handle the Lowell LRTA liaison.

I would like to have you put the coordination of the vans' usage on the Selectmen's Agenda for our 7 February meeting, and ask to have Christine extend an invitation to the COA Director, TAC and Don Herskovitz to then attend the meeting.

Regards,  
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